(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) what precautionary steps Government propose to take to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All developments having a bearing on India's security are kept under constant review by the Government and all necessary measures taken to safeguard it.

Achievements of Indian Space Research Organisation

954. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the achievements of the Indian Space Research Organisation during the last five years; and

(b) what plans are under way, specially, in the launching of satellites, being implemented by ISRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 40].

Crash of IAF MIG-27 near Meerut

955. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IAF MIG-27 aircraft crashed recently near Meerut;

(b) if so, what was the number of persons killed as a result of the crash and what is the estimated loss suffered by Government; and

(c) what is the result of the inquiry conducted by Government into the crash and what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ten persons were killed. The pilot was able to eject, but the aircraft was destroyed. A Court of Inquiry has been instituted, to assess the causes of the accident and extent of loss. Suitable action thereon will be considered after the Inquiry Report has been received.

Revised School textbooks for Class I to XII

956. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recently completed a massive exercise of revision of text books as per the National core curriculum spelt out in the New Education Policy (NPE) of 1986; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) by when the revised books would be applicable and available in the schools; and

(c) to what extent the burden of books on students would be brought down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF

EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) As part of the effort at reorientation the content and process of education at the school stage, the NCERT has since 1986-87, been engaged in the task of renewal of curriculum, revision of syllabi and development of re-vised textbooks in different curricular areas for classes I to XII based on the revised syllabi. Based on the National Curricular Framework and the revised syllabi developed by the NCERT, most of the States and Union Territories have also undertaken several measures for renewal of curriculum, revision of syllabi and development of textbooks based on the revised syllabi for classes I to XII and for their introduction into the school system in a phased manner.

(b) A statement detailing the schedule for introduction of revised textbooks is appended. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 41].

(c) classes I & II only in two subject areas (Language & Mathematics) textbooks are recommended for prescription by NCERT. For classes III to V, textbooks are prescribed only for four subject areas (Language, Mathematics, Environmental studies—Science and Environmen tal studies—Social studies). For classes VI to X, only one textbook in Science has been prescribed instead of separate textbooks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology in the past. This has helped in reducing the burden of textbooks on students.

Science and Technology Books in Indian Languages

957. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the libraries in various Institutes and Colleges do not have adequate science and technology books and journals in Indian languages to provide the facility of research and its propagation in Hindi and other Indian languages; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The University Grants Commission provides grants under various schemes to the Universities and Colleges for purchase of books and journals. It is left to the University and Colleges to purchase books/ journals according to their requirement.

(b) Various steps have been taken to provide facility of research in Hindi and other Indian languages. Central assistance of Rs. 110 lakhs each was provided to the participating States and Universities during the Seventh Plan for producing university level text-books in different disciplines. Nearly 9,000 books in Indian languages for university teachers, students and researches have been published under this scheme. 40 per cent of these books are on science and technology. The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has produced a number of definitional dictionaries and teechnical glossaries. The Commission also publishes quarterly journals in Hindi on science and medicine. The University Grants Commission has been providing support to Indian authors for writing books in Indian languages and more than 900 projects have been approved under the scheme.

The All India Council for Technical Education has brought to the notice of the State Governments and State Boards the need for making adequate preparation for the change over from